(c) if so, the total quantity of crude oil and other petroleum products imported during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 alongwith the total of demurrage paid for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMAY):

(a) and (b) The oil industry incurs demurrage partly due to non-availability of berth/ullage and partly due to requirement of keeping some inventory floating in high seas.

(c) Quantity of crude oil and other petroleum products imported during the years, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and the demurrage paid on such imports by Oil Industry were as under:—

	Imports(000'Tonnes)		Demurrage paid (Rupees crores)	
	1997-98	*1998-99	1997-98	1998-99*
Crude oil	34494	39808	107.16	154.05
Petroleum Products	19530	18780	471.00	476.00

*provisional

Recruitment Policy of ONGC and Oil

377. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the recruitment policy of his Ministry as regards ONGC and Oil India;

(b) whether certain anomalies as regards recruitment in Nazira — the Head Quarters of ONGC(ERBC) came to light in the month of September 1998 when all the commerce graduates of Guwahati and Dibrugarh University failed in an interview for junior account assistant and were again called later; and

(c) what are the causes of such anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Recruitment to various posts in ONGC is done in accordance with the Modified Recruitment & Promotion Regulations, 1980. In Oil India Limited, recruitment to executive cadre is done through open press advertisement and the recruitment of work personnel are done by notifying the vacancies through local employment exchanges.

(b) and (c) A written test was conducted by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (Eastern Region Business Centre), Nazira on 22nd November, 1998 for recruitment to five posts of Jr. Accounts Assistant, where 193 candidates appeared. Since none of the candidates qualified in the written test, one more chance was given to all the candidates

and a written test was conducted again on 4th April, 1999. The qualified candidates were interviewed on 29th April, 1999 and five posts of Jr. Accounts Assistants were filled in during May, 1999. There has, therefore, been no anomaly as such.

Cases against LPG and Petrol Pump Agents

378. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any cases, where LPG agents, or petrol pump owners have given false information while getting the agency;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what action has been taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) During the last three years (i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99) there were 5 cases in retail outlets and 5 cases in LPG distributorships where it was established that dealerships/Distributorships were obtained by furnishing false information. Yearwise details are given below:—

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
RO	2	1	2
LPG	1	3	1

All the above dealerships/distributorships have since been terminated.

Availability of Natural Gas in Tripura for industrial users

379. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of natural gas available in Tripura for allotment of industrial use;

(b) how much quantity, sector-wise, had been allotted among the industrial users so far; and

(c) the details of applications pending for additional allotment of gas in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The present availability of natural gas in Tripura is 2.83 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD).

(b) The total allocation of natural gas in Tripura is 1.7962 MMSCMD. Out of this, 1.650 MMSCMD is for Power Sector, 0.1302 MMSCMD for domestic & small scale industries and 0.016 for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).